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Notes on works by Betty Roe

VERITIES for soprano and clarinet

This is a setting of three poems about aspects of Death by the contemporary Cornish poet Charles Causley, who suggested the work's title.

I am the great sun (from the N orman crucifix of 1632)

'I am the great sun, but you do not see me,
I am your husband, but you turn away;
I am the captive but you do not free me,
I am the captain you will not obey....'

Now

'Now that you leave me for that other friend,
Rich as the rubbed sun, elegant of eye,
Who watched in lost light your five fortunes end
And wear the weapons of the wasted sky....'

Grave by the sea

'By the crunching Cornish sea
Walk the man and walk the lover,
Innocent as fish that fare
In the high and hooking air....'

TWO SONGS FOR SOPRANO AND DOUBLE BASS

Euphonium Dance (Jacqueline Froom)

Madam and the Minister (Langston Hughes)

These light-hearted songs - using Jacqueline Froom's amusing fantasy and Langston Hughes' droll anecdote - need no explaining.